

SEVERE LOCAL HAIL AND WIND STORMS, DECEMBER, 1926

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
Washington (western part of)	1					Severe wind	Thousands of dollars damage to plate-glass windows and roofs; telegraph, telephone, and transmission wires also damaged to some extent.	Times (Seattle, Wash.); official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Eastport, Me., and vicinity	5-6					Wind and snow	Traffic impeded	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Iowa (northern part of)	7					do.	Railway traffic interrupted, and highways blocked by drifts.	Do.
California (southern part of)	8-9					Wind and rain	A considerable amount of citrus fruits whipped from trees in some sections; trees injured by twisting and breaking of limbs; barge sunk by sudden squall in San Pablo Bay.	Do.
Devils Lake, N. Dak., and vicinity	9-10					Wind and snow	All highways blocked to motor traffic by drifts	Do.
Iowa (northern part of)	13					do.	Rail traffic delayed; highways obstructed	Do.
Buffalo, N. Y.	16			1		Gale and snow	Traffic considerably delayed; one death due to exposure.	
Iowa (northern part of)	23					Wind and snow	Railway traffic delayed; roads blocked	Do.
Havre, Mont.	24					Wind	Insecure signs, awnings, and chimneys blown down.	Do.

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STORMS AND WEATHER WARNINGS

WASHINGTON FORECAST DISTRICT

On December 5 storm warnings were ordered from Delaware Breakwater to Eastport, Me., for strong east winds accompanied by snow, which occurred as indicated. Warnings were changed to northwest the following day.

Storm warnings were ordered displayed the night of the 13th from Wilmington, N. C., to Eastport, in connection with a disturbance of marked intensity over Ontario. Warnings were ordered down south of Delaware Breakwater on the morning of the 14th and winds did not exceed fresh to strong north of Delaware Breakwater.

Small craft warnings were issued the morning of the 15th between Hatteras and Sandy Hook.

On the evening of the 25th, warnings were ordered from Delaware Breakwater to Eastport in connection with a disturbance over Kentucky, and strong winds and gales occurred as indicated.

Storm signals were ordered on the morning of the 28th from Norfolk to Eastport in connection with a disturbance over Mississippi of increasing intensity. This disturbance moved northeastward attended by strong winds and gales over the region indicated in the advices. Small-craft warnings were displayed on the east Gulf coast on the 28th.

Frost or freezing temperature warnings were issued for portions of the east Gulf and south Atlantic States on the 1st, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 24th, 29th, and 30th.

Cold-wave warnings were ordered for limited areas several times during the month, but the changes were moderate in all cases and on two occasions delayed. No important cold waves occurred.—*R. H. Weightman.*

CHICAGO FORECAST DISTRICT

December, 1926, in the Chicago forecast district was colder than usual, especially in the northern quarter, where the mean temperature ranged from about 4 to 8 degrees below normal. As to precipitation, less than the normal amounts occurred, as a rule, but the number of days with a trace or more of precipitation was comparatively large.

Storms on the Great Lakes.—The storm warning season continued until the termination of the 15th. During

this period several disturbances affected the Great Lakes, but none was of much severity. However, either small craft or storm warnings were issued for all but one of these disturbances. The exception was the disturbance of the 7th-8th, which exhibited only minor force as it crossed the Lakes. The most important storm of the month was that of the 11th-14th. This was a deep disturbance from the northwest and it preceded a severe cold wave. Strong winds or gales occurred over most of the Great Lakes region in this connection. The warnings issued were general in scope and proved timely.

After the close of the storm-warning season, advisory warnings were issued on three occasions for interests on Lake Michigan, where navigation proceeds throughout the year as a rule.

The abnormally cold weather that prevailed at the beginning of the month resulted in a great accumulation of ice in the canals and locks at the "Soo," with the result that one of the earliest and greatest blockades ever experienced in the marine history of the Great Lakes existed for a few days at that time. More than 100 vessels of various kinds were held in the ice.

Cold waves.—Cold-wave warnings were issued for some part of the district on 11 dates, although in a few cases the warnings of one date were merely repetitions of those of the previous date. The most severe and widespread cold wave of the month covered the 12th-14th. It swept virtually the entire district. In some instances the 24-hour fall in temperature equaled or slightly exceeded 50 degrees. A second general and marked fall in temperature crossed the district from the 23d to the 25th, but in some areas the minimum temperature required to constitute a cold wave was not reached. Cold waves without warnings occurred in a number of instances, but over limited areas as a rule. In most of these cases the cold wave was of the "radiation" type. That is to say, the fall in temperature occurred over a snow-covered surface in or near the center of a high pressure area.

Livestock warnings.—Advices for the benefit of livestock interests were disseminated on the 12th for South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, and on the 22d, for the Dakotas and western Nebraska.—*C. A. Donnel.*

NEW ORLEANS FORECAST DISTRICT

Storms were not intense and only one cold wave required general warnings.

Northwest storm warnings were issued for the Texas coast in the morning of the 24th and verifying velocities